



Washington Latin

Public Charter Schools

New Student/Families Frequently Asked Questions

ENROLLMENT QUESTIONS

Q. Does sibling preference count across campuses?

Sibling preference applies at the same campus only, according to MySchoolDC policy. Likewise, Washington Latin does not have a way to offer a transfer option from one campus to the other; families must simply apply for the change through the regular lottery process.

Q. I applied for sibling preference for my nephew, and he didn't receive the preference. Can you tell me why?

A. The sibling preference only applies to siblings or stepsiblings living in the same household or living between homes in the case of joint custody. We are not able to extend sibling preference to other family members.

Q. I applied for sibling preference for my 5th grader (for example purposes only). My older child is currently 12th grader attending Latin and the preference was denied. Why is that?

A. Per MySchoolDC policy, the newly attending sibling must begin as a student at Washington Latin before the 12th grader graduates. This also applies to faculty/staff preference. The faculty/staff member must be employed at the school when the child begins attending.

Q. My child is #35 (for example purposes only) on the waitlist. What does that mean? Do we have a chance of getting a spot at Latin?

A. The technical answer is that it means that there are 34 students ahead of your child. In order to reach #35, we would have to extend offers to those 34 students first. For example, if four of these 34 families decline, we would take the top four off the waitlist. Whether they accept or decline the offered spot, they are taken off our waitlist and everyone moves up the list.

There is no way to predict what will happen this year – or any year – in terms of the waitlist. Over time, we have seen a few patterns, however. First, it is rare that we ever dip into the waitlist beyond say #20 for 5th grade and #25 for 9th grade at 2nd Street. At Cooper, we have much less data but still see a similar pattern.

Second, the closer we are to the start of the school year, the more likely it is that families will have already committed to another school and therefore may not take the offered spot. We may see more movement on the list in the late summer/early fall than in the spring.

Third, there are a variety of factors that affect the list, including preferences (see below). This can change your child's waitlist number both up and down.

Q. My child's wait list number has changed. Can you tell me why?

A. Your waitlist number may fluctuate based on a variety of factors. First, we offer an accepted sibling preference, meaning that if one child in a family is matched or offered a spot from the waitlist, any sibling moves up the waitlist. Second, MySchoolDC may apply a preference upon appeal that was initially denied, such as the Equitable Access preference. These are examples of how a student can move up – or down – the waitlist for either campus of Washington Latin.

Q. I live near one of the Latin campuses. Do I get a neighborhood preference?

A. Washington Latin is a public charter school, which means we are not an in-boundary neighborhood school. We accept students from all 8 wards of DC. We hope our neighbors will apply, and your chances are the same as other families in DC.

Q. What is the Equitable Access Preference and how do I apply for it?

A. The Equitable Access Preference allows us to set aside seats for students who are considered at-risk, defined in DC as those who:

- Are experiencing homelessness
- Are in the DC foster care system
- Qualify for government benefits such as SNAP or TANF

We want to make sure that our school, both campuses, are accessible to families across DC and in all circumstances. Students who qualify for this preference will be matched with Washington Latin FIRST, so it makes the chances of a match with our school much higher than in the regular lottery.

How do eligible families receive this preference? On the last screen of the application, you see this statement: “One or more of the schools you listed on your application may offer an Equitable Access preference for applicants that have met the preference criteria as measured by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education between April 1, 2022 and March 1, 2023. Please click the button to give consent to My

School DC to coordinate with OSSE to determine if your child should receive this preference and transmit that information to the school.” Learn more about lottery preferences at myschooldc.org.

Q. How can I sign up for a shadow or a tour?

A. We offer shadow days for matched students at both campuses. Shadow days at 2nd Street are on Mondays from 8:45 AM - 11:45 AM. Shadow days at Cooper are on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

To schedule a Shadow Day for either the 2nd St or Cooper Campus, please complete the [Shadow Day Request Form](#). If you have questions, please contact Crystal Eleby-El, Director of Student Recruitment (celebyel@latinpcs.org)

We will host a tour for all newly matched families on Saturday, April 29th, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at both campuses. This will also be a time for you to complete the enrollment process if you need assistance.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHOOL LIFE

Q. What are your school hours?

A. At Cooper, the school day starts at 8:00 and ends between 2:55 and 3:10 pm (depending on the grade). Wednesday dismissal is at 2:55.

At 2nd Street, all grades begin at 8:10 pm and dismiss at 3:20 for Middle School and 3:15 for Upper School. Wednesday dismissal is at 2:10 pm.

Both campuses have a 30 minute tutorial period after dismissal (except on Fridays), when students can receive extra help from any teacher.

Q. Can you tell me more about Latin’s buses - the routes and stops?

A. Washington Latin has a chartered school bus service to both Cooper and 2nd Street Campuses in the morning, afternoon, and at 2nd Street a late bus (for students in an afterschool activity). Bus stops are in Ward 7/8, on Capitol Hill, and Tenley Town. Families pay for the service and may do so for every day or part-time. There is NO COST for families who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals. Please read more on the website – 2nd Street families and [Cooper Families](#)

Q. Do students wear uniforms?

A. Yes. Uniforms are to be worn with careful attention to proper presentation, appearance, and sizing. The basic Latin uniform consists of khaki (tan) or navy blue bottoms and a collared white, gray or navy shirt with the Latin logo. Please see the full policy and information on the [Policies](#) page of our website.

Washington Latin Public Charter Schools ★ A Classical Education for the Modern World ★ www.latinpcs.org

2nd Street Campus ★ 5200 2nd Street NW ★ Washington, DC 20011 ★ 202.223.1111

Anna Julia Cooper Campus ★ 711 Edgewood Street NE ★ Washington, DC 20017 ★ 202.697.4430

Q. What sports are offered? In what grade do they start?

A. We have a robust athletic program for students in grades 6-12 with more than 35 teams in a range of sports on teams for boys, girls, and co-ed. Sports at Latin include soccer, cross-country, volleyball, flag football, basketball, track, wrestling, cheer, lacrosse, swimming, tennis, ultimate frisbee, baseball, and softball. In addition, we offer non-compete wellness classes, such as yoga, fitness, strength training, and more. All sports are currently offered at the 2nd Street Campus, with a free shuttle from the Cooper Campus afterschool to those students on teams.

Q. Do you offer aftercare?

A. Yes! Our afterschool program is called MAGIS ([màh-gis] Latin adv., more, better). The program is offered to middle school students at both campuses from dismissal until 6:00 pm, Monday – Thursday. The program is not offered on Fridays, school holidays nor half-days. Students may enroll for 1 to 4 days per week, per session, or for the entire year. Drop-in is also possible. Please read more about the [2nd Street Magis Program](#) or the [Magis @ Cooper program](#).

Q. Do you have an active Parent-Faculty Association? How can I get involved?

A. Both campuses have parents involved in the Parent-Faculty Association to support the school and student experience through events, communication, and fundraising. The PFA includes EVERY parent/guardian. Read more about the organization and how it works on the [PFA page](#) of the website.